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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

March 8 - March 15, 1990

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### News Releases—

NAL Videotapes Farming Experts for Posterity

Pisa Named NAL Assistant Director

Private Exporters Report Sales Activity for South Korea

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Price for Upland Cotton

USDA Solicits Public Comments on Soybean Standards

Varroa Mite-Resistant Honey Bees Out of Quarantine, Ready for More Study

Yeutter Commends Brady for Extending Ethanol Tax Credit to ETBE

Private Exporters Report Sales Activity for China, South Korea and Japan

Alfalfa Juice Boosting Protein for Malnourished Children in Mexico

USDA Will Test Compact-Disk System to Speed Information to Farmers

Yeutter Names Cotton Board Alternate Member

USDA Revises Grading Standards for Canned Tomatoes

California Medfly Quarantine Area Enlarged

Portugal and Y.A.R. Listed Among Countries With African Horse Sickness

USDA Plans Changes in Agricultural Estimating Program

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Rice Prices

*Continued on inside front cover.*

## **News Releases Continued.**

**Saudi Arabia Eligible for More Barley Under Export Enhancement Program**

**USDA Announces 1990-Crop Wheat, Barley, Oats and Rye Loan and Purchase Rates**

**USDA Announces Changes in Animal Import Quarantine Procedures**

**Beetles New Hope Against Purple Weed Menace**

**USDA Protects Eleven New Plant Varieties**

**This Week's Honey-Loan Repayment Levels Unchanged**

# News Releases

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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## NAL VIDEOTAPES FARMING EXPERTS FOR POSTERITY

WASHINGTON—One day, one or two hundred years from now, a gardener may be listening as Dr. James A. Duke tells how herbs can be used to keep insects and disease from harming corn and grape crops.

Duke is only one of several farming experts who have appeared in videotapes which will convey current farming know-how and thinking to future generations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library has begun videotaping "oral histories" with prominent scientists in the field of alternative agriculture. The tapes are available for loan.

NAL is producing the tapes in an effort to save the expertise of present-day farming authorities for future generations of U.S. farmers. The work is directed by Jayne MacLean, coordinator of NAL's Alternative Farming Information Center, and Jane Gates.

"Like librarians for thousands of years, we are working to save important information for posterity," said MacLean. "Videotape is another way for us to do this."

NAL's Alternative Farming Information Center provides information about farming techniques that are profitable yet have minimum impact on the environment. The persons featured in the videotapes stress these techniques.

"For a researcher or biographer a generation or more from now actually to see and hear people who have gained renown in their fields talk about themselves, their lives and their work has exciting implications," Gates said. "Imagine being able to view a videotape of Charles Darwin or George Washington Carver talking about their work; to hear, in their own words, about their lives and motivation. It would add a new dimension to what is already known about these great scientists."

Dr. Duke was the subject of the first oral history produced by MacLean and Gates in August 1988. He is a botanist with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Md.

"Jim is a nationally recognized authority in herb research," MacLean said. "He also is very articulate, with hundreds of anecdotes and a



delightful personality. Jane and I thought he would be an ideal first candidate for an oral history.”

On three consecutive days, MacLean, Gates and an NAL employee with a videocamera met with Duke to pick his brain for information on his development as a botanist and on herbs. What they came up with was a 2-hour videotape of Duke recounting his upbringing in Alabama and North Carolina, his career in botany, and his insights on the future of herb use in farming and in medicine.

Since the Duke tape, MacLean and Gates have gone ahead with additional interviews. Robert Rodale was the second featured expert to be videotaped. “He has an international following as an organic farming guru,” MacLean said.

Rodale has been developing and refining techniques for farming without chemicals for years, MacLean said. He also publishes a number of magazines and books on organic farming and gardening from his offices in Emmaus, Pa.

On the tape, he talks about his publishing company, and about the Rodale Institute, a non-profit organization that does research into organic farming. He also explains how he came to his beliefs in organic farming through his father’s work during the 1930s and 40s.

Information on interlibrary loan of the tapes is available from Jayne MacLean, National Agricultural Library, Rm. 109-C, Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, Md. 20705; telephone (301) 344-3724.

Brian Norris (301) 344-3778

Issued: March 8, 1990

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## **PISA NAMED NAL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

BELTSVILLE, Md., March 8—Maria G. Pisa has been named the assistant director of U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Library, replacing Samuel T. Waters who retired in January 1990. Pisa began her new assignment Feb. 11.

In announcing Pisa’s selection, NAL Director Joseph Howard said, “During her years with the National Agricultural Library, Maria consistently has proven her value and commitment to our operations. Her leadership, experience and dedication will help immeasurably as the

library moves ahead in developing new services and technologies to serve the agricultural community of the United States.”

Pisa joined NAL in 1981. Most recently, she was assistant to the Chief of the NAL’s Public Services Division and acting head of the Reference and User Services Branch of the library. In these positions, she was instrumental in developing NAL’s computer bulletin board system, which provides nationwide electronic access to information about products and services available from the library.

Pisa has a Master of Library Science degree from Catholic University, Washington, D.C. (1978), and a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston University (1974). She has written extensively on library issues and is a member of several professional societies including the American Library Association.

NAL is the foremost agricultural library in the world containing nearly two million volumes and receiving 26,000 periodicals annually. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

Brian Norris (301) 344-3778

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR SOUTH KOREA**

WASHINGTON, March 8—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 100,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to South Korea during the 1989-90 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn began Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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**USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE  
FOR UPLAND COTTON**

Washington, March 8—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Mar. 9, through midnight Thursday, Mar. 15.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Mar. 8, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price	
Northern Europe Price .....	78.81
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location .....	12.97
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....	2.20
Average U.S. location .....	0.39
Sum of Adjustments .....	<u>-15.56</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....	63.25 cents/lb.
Coarse Count Adjustment	
Northern Europe Price .....	78.81
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price .....	<u>-75.25</u>
	3.56
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton .....	<u>-4.75</u>
	-1.19
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....	0 cents/lb.



The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, Mar. 15.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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## **USDA SOLICITS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SOYBEAN STANDARDS**

WASHINGTON, March 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service is seeking public comments on the U.S. soybean standards, including recommendations for changes, as part of an overall review of federal soybean inspection and grading regulations.

FGIS is required under executive order to review all regulations and standards periodically, assessing them for effectiveness, potential improvements, and clarity of language.

FGIS Acting Administrator David Galliard said specific items already scheduled for review under the standards for soybeans include: definition of soybeans; the tolerances for stones and pieces of glass in the definition of sample grade; grade limitations for purple mottled or stained soybeans; the grading limits for heat-damaged kernels, damaged kernels, splits, and soybeans of other colors; the lowering of the grade limits for foreign material; the relevance of minimum test weight per bushel as a grading factor; the inclusion of oil and protein as mandatory nongrade determining factors; and a means to better reflect the quality of soybeans used for direct human consumption.

Comments and recommendations are invited on these and all other aspects of the U.S. soybean standards, Galliard said.

Comments must be received no later than June 7, and may be submitted by mail to Paul Marsden, Federal Grain Inspection Service, USDA, Room 0628-S, Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454. Telecopier users may send responses to FGIS' automatic telecopier machine at (202) 447-4628. Notice of this review was published today in the Federal Register.

Allen A. Atwood (202) 475-3367

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## **VARROA MITE-RESISTANT HONEYBEES OUT OF QUARANTINE, READY FOR MORE STUDY**

WASHINGTON, March 9—Imported honeybees that were bred for resistance to Varroa mites in Yugoslavia were brought out of quarantine this week to be studied at a U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory in Baton Rouge, La., the lab director announced today.

Geneticist Thomas E. Rinderer said the lab will study the bees to see how they resist mite attack, in hopes of learning how to check a colony for resistance and then breed for it. They would then pass the findings on to bee breeders.

“That way breeders would always have the technology to produce resistant bees to sell to beekeeper clients,” said Rinderer of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

He said the Varroa jacobsoni mite, which has spread to 24 states and Puerto Rico since its arrival in 1985, can kill all the bees in a hive within two to three years.

Rinderer said the imported bees, quarantined off the Louisiana coast, were bred in a five-year joint project between the ARS Honeybee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Research Laboratory in Baton Rouge and Jovan M. Kulincevic of the PKB Institute “Agroekonomik” in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. USDA’s Office of International Cooperation and Development sponsored the project.

Kulincevic did the bee breeding at his lab. “He had already started to look for resistance before we discovered the mite in Wisconsin and Florida,” Rinderer said. “So, we thought we should benefit from those three or four years of work instead of starting over.”

After importing the resistant bees from Yugoslavia last August, Rinderer and colleagues quarantined them on Grande Terre island, about 32 miles off the coast of Louisiana, to ensure they carried no exotic disease or parasites.

“It’s rare to import honeybees from overseas,” said Ralph A. Bram, ARS national program staff, Beltsville. He said the bees will be used only for research, with the approval of Louisiana agriculture officials and USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Rinderer said that just supplying beekeepers with a resistant line probably would not have long-lasting benefits because the bees eventually would lose the trait. “That’s why giving bee breeders the know-how to



select for the defense against the mite will be the best strategy in the long run,” he said.

The mite is especially harmful because it attacks adult bees as well as pupae developing in honey comb cells. Most bee diseases attack just one or the other stage, Rinderer said.

The female Varroa, during her lifetime, lays three to 20 eggs in the protective comb cells of developing bees. Young mites emerge and feed on the blood of bee larvae and pupae.

Some larvae and pupae die, and those that don’t often emerge deformed and useless to the hive.

The mites survive the winter, when bees don’t have larvae in cells, by parasitizing adults. “They attach to bees’ abdomens and suck their blood, which makes them weak,” Rinderer said. “Weak bees can’t produce as much honey or pollinate as well.”

To find more resistant colonies, Kulincevic periodically fumigated hives to kill varroa mites infesting bee hives. Then he let hives naturally reinfest and fumigated again, this time counting the number of mites that fell to the bottom of the hive. He noted which hives had fewer mites and were therefore less prone to mite attacks.

He took the most resistant bees and bred new generations from them.

Jessica M. Silva (301) 344-3927

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## **YEUTTER COMMENDS BRADY FOR EXTENDING ETHANOL TAX CREDIT TO ETBE**

KEARNEY, Neb., March 9—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today commended Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady for issuing a final rule that extends a tax credit to ethanol for use in the manufacture of ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE). This rule will allow ETBE to be competitive with petroleum based octane enhancers. Previously tax credits were available only for ethanol blended directly with gasoline to produce gasohol.

“Extending the tax credit to ETBE is sound policy that represents a great step forward in improving our environment while helping to expand the demand for farm products,” said Yeutter.

ETBE is a superior oxygenated octane enhancer made of ethanol and isobutylene (an intermediate product of petroleum refining). ETBE has

excellent prospects for nationwide use as an octane enhancer in gasoline. ETBE can be a major contributor to meeting the President's clean air goals by expanding the use of environmentally sound oxygenated fuels. ETBE lowers evaporative emissions which form ozone; improves engine combustion which reduces carbon monoxide and other noxious emissions; improves engine performance; and opens the national gasoline market to ethanol.

In addition, ETBE produced from domestically grown renewable resources such as corn improves our energy security by reducing dependence on foreign oil.

This new ETBE market has the potential to expand the demand for corn used in alternative fuels, Yeutter said. For example, U.S. Department of Agriculture research indicates that an additional 100 million bushels of corn used in ethanol production raises corn prices by 2 to 4 cents a bushel.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

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## **PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR CHINA, SOUTH KOREA, AND JAPAN**

WASHINGTON, March 9—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the following activity:

—Export sales of 370,000 metric tons of soft red winter wheat for delivery to China during the 1990-91 marketing year;

—Export sales of 100,000 tons of corn for delivery to South Korea during 1989-90; and

—Export sales of 101,600 tons of corn for delivery to Japan during 1989-90.

The marketing year for wheat begins June 1 and for corn began Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

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## ALFALFA JUICE BOOSTING PROTEIN FOR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN IN MEXICO

WASHINGTON, March 12—An unexpected spinoff from research to boost nutrition for U.S. milk cows is benefiting malnourished children in four villages in Mexico, said a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist.

And, it could have “tremendous potential elsewhere,” said Richard G. Koegel of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service in Madison, Wis.

The key, said Koegel, is a more efficient way to extract high-protein juice from alfalfa. It was devised to give U.S. farmers another market for alfalfa and boost protein in dairy feed. Koegel, an agricultural engineer, headed the research team of ARS and University of Wisconsin scientists.

The new method has yet to find a niche with U.S. farmers, but that hasn’t stopped a church-funded pilot project from using it to produce protein supplements for more than 100 school-age children in four villages near Saltillo, Mexico, about 250 miles west of Brownsville, Texas. Plans call for expanding the project to 15 villages, said Koegel. He is based at the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center operated by ARS in Madison.

“Anecdotal evidence points to impressive improvements in the health and development of the children, many of whom showed signs of malnutrition before the start of the project,” he said. “And legume protein concentrates have tremendous potential elsewhere, provided you can find the right crop and the right way to apply the technology so local people can create the benefits.”

He said the Mexico project—the Leaf Nutrient Program—was the brainchild of Bill Marsh, former principal of Madison Central High School, and H. D. Bruhn, professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin. “We’re gratified they were able to turn our technology to such direct benefit to people,” said Koegel.

Marsh said he and others involved in the project are planning a trip to Saltillo around March 19.

The equipment—two sets so far—was purchased from private donations routed through the First United Methodist Church of Harlingen, Texas. Faculty at the Antonio Narro Agricultural University in Saltillo operate the project.

The project uses equipment crafted by Bruhn and based on the technology developed by researchers at Madison. Local people, including mothers and children, cut alfalfa by hand and feed it into machines that

basically “beat it up and squeeze out the juice,” Koegel said. The juice is then heated to about 175 degrees F, which causes the protein to coagulate “like when you poach an egg,” so it can be separated from the liquid, Koegel said.

The equipment, which may be mounted on a trailer and carted from place to place, costs about \$700 and runs on electricity. But it could be adapted to run off a gas engine or animal or human muscle power.

The concentrate is used in a variety of foods such as beans, pasta and lemonade. “Mothers in one locale even held a contest to see who could come up with the best recipes,” Koegel said.

“An armful” of alfalfa supplies about a tablespoon of the juice concentrate, he said. “That seems to be enough to raise the children’s protein to satisfactory levels, although no scientific nutritional studies have been made.”

“Alfalfa,” he noted, “produces more protein per acre than any other crop.” The technique has been tested at Madison with other legumes, such as red clover and pea vines from which pods had been harvested, and other plant material including carrot tops, potato vines, green oats and various grasses.

Work at Madison with the juice concentrate, he said, evolved into research that led to a new way of harvesting alfalfa. Koegel headed a research team that invented a harvester—still experimental—to convert forage plants, such as alfalfa, into a mat that dries on the ground in 4 to 6 days instead of the usual two to four days.

By reducing the risk of rain damage, the “forage mat machine” can prevent the loss of up to one-third of the nutrients. The forage also is 15 percent more digestible and livestock eat 8 to 10 percent more, he said.

Feb. 22 Koegel was named Federal Engineer of the Year by the National Society of Professional Engineers for this and other research on boosting protein in forage for cows. He was selected from nominees of 38 federal agencies, which employ several thousand engineers.

The origin of squeezing protein juice from green plants dates to World War II, Koegel said. As insurance against a possible German blockade that might prevent adequate food supplies from reaching England. British chemist N. W. Pirie came up with a process to extract protein from plant juice. But the blockade didn’t materialize, so Pirie’s process wasn’t needed.

Jim De Quattro (301) 344-4296

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## USDA WILL TEST COMPACT-DISK SYSTEM TO SPEED INFORMATION TO FARMERS

WASHINGTON, March 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced completion of its first “CD-ROM”—or compact disk-read only memory—containing thousands of pages of rural and agricultural information to speed responses to inquiries made of USDA’s Extension Service.

“The Extension Service has 16,000 workers at over 3,000 locations in the United States providing technical information to U.S. taxpayers millions of times a year,” said ES Administrator Myron Johnsrud. “This disk can cut our response time significantly and has the potential to help us serve taxpayers more efficiently.”

According to Johnsrud the disk, or CD-ROM, will enable county extension agents to respond quickly and easily to frequently asked questions by punching up the desired information on a computer screen. The disk contains university and extension fact sheets, publications, frequently used databases and computer software.

Dubbed an “extension service sampler,” the CD-ROM is being released simultaneously to 115 test sites in the United States. Users at the sites will evaluate the sampler’s usefulness to their operations for one year. Sites include county and state extension offices and land-grant libraries.

“The disk is an outgrowth of the ‘text digitizing project’ underway at USDA’s National Agricultural Library,” said NAL Director Joe Howard.

“In an effort to preserve agricultural information and make it more accessible, NAL has been putting the full text of publications and other written material on CD-ROMs. Computer technology has advanced to the point that this can be done relatively easily,” Howard said.

Assisting NAL and the ES in developing the CD-ROM were the Virginia Cooperative Extension service and the Minnesota Extension Service.

Thomas Tate (202) 447-8155  
Brian Norris (301) 344-3778

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## **YEUTTER NAMES COTTON BOARD ALTERNATE MEMBER**

WASHINGTON, March 12—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter has appointed John Sharp Howie to be the Mississippi alternate member of the Cotton Board, which administers a national cotton research and promotion program.

A cotton grower from Yazoo City, Miss., Howie will serve until Dec. 31, 1991. He completes the term for the Mississippi alternate that began Jan. 1, 1989, but was unfilled.

The Cotton Board is composed of 20 producer-members and their alternates, plus one public member who serves without an alternate. Each cotton-producing state is represented on the board, with membership proportional to production. Board members serve staggered three-year terms. Yeutter appointed eight members and nine alternates to the board Feb. 13. Howie's appointment completes current selections for the board.

Designed to advance the position of cotton in the marketplace, the research and promotion program is funded by assessments on producers and is carried out by Cotton Incorporated under contract with the Cotton Board.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## **USDA REVISES GRADING STANDARDS FOR CANNED TOMATOES**

WASHINGTON, March 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is making major revisions of USDA grading standards for canned tomatoes, effective April 13, to reflect industry developments over the last decade. The standards are used voluntarily by the U.S. canned tomato industry.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the revisions, resulting from USDA's two-year study of U.S. tomato canning practices, will:

- add categories for “whole,” “sliced,” “halves,” “wedges,” and “diced” for canned tomatoes and for canned stewed tomatoes to which other vegetables have been added;

- eliminate the “U.S. Grade A Whole” classification, leaving whole canned tomatoes to be graded with the inclusive term “U.S. Grade A”;

- eliminate drained weight as a directly scoreable factor in grading



whole canned tomatoes, but apply it as a “prerequisite quality factor,” a criterion in determining the quality of a pack, for all canned tomato styles;

- introduce “character,” or degree of firmness, as a scoreable quality factor for all styles;

- remove the subjective term “good” from consideration as a criterion in defining tomato flavor, reducing the flavor criteria to the more objective “normal” and “off”;

- establish the use of a smaller-meshed sieve to determine drained weights of sliced and diced tomatoes;

- change from dual-grade nomenclature such as “U.S. Fancy” and “U.S. Grade A” to a single nomenclature of letter grades, and;

- make minor editorial changes in the grading regulations to make them consistent with other recently revised U.S. grade standards.

USDA began its review of tomato standards in response to a 1986 petition from a food processors association, which claimed that the existing standards did not reflect growing, harvesting and marketing practices developed in the tomato industry over a decade. USDA’s review was of major canned tomato processing operations throughout the United States. Comments received on the proposal published in the Federal Register last July favored the revisions unanimously, Haley said. The last change in USDA canned tomato standards was in 1964, he said.

The revised standards will appear as a final rule in the March 14 Federal Register. For copies or additional information, contact Harold A. Machias, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 0709-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 447-6247.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## CALIFORNIA MEDFLY QUARANTINE AREA ENLARGED

WASHINGTON, March 13—To prevent the spread of Mediterranean fruit flies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is enlarging its quarantine area to include new sections of Los Angeles and Orange Counties in California.

New infestations of Medflies were discovered in Pomona in Los Angeles County and in Garden Grove in Orange County, prompting the

expanded quarantine around those cities and adjacent areas of Brea and Westminster.

The quarantine prohibits moving fruits and vegetables that might harbor Medflies to regions outside the infested area without a special certificate or permit issued by an inspector.

Medflies are one of the world's most destructive insect pests, attacking hundreds of fruits and vegetables. The pests are especially damaging to citrus; heavy infestations can cause production losses of 25 to 50 percent. If permanently established in the United States, Medflies also would seriously limit the export market for U.S. produce.

The amended quarantine, effective March 9, will be published in the March 15 Federal Register. Comments on the action will be accepted if they are received on or before May 14. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket no. 90-031 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Room 1141-S., 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Anita Brown (301) 436-5931

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## **PORTUGAL AND Y.A.R. LISTED AMONG COUNTRIES WITH AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS**

WASHINGTON, March 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is adding Portugal and the Yemen Arab Republic to its list of countries affected with African horse sickness (AHS).

“We are including Portugal and the Yemen Arab Republic to the list of countries affected with African horse sickness to help prevent the introduction of the disease into the United States,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

“Because Portugal and the Yemen Arab Republic have recorded cases of AHS, all horses, including horses that have transited through these countries, must enter the United States at the New York Animal Import Center in Newburgh, N.Y., and undergo a 60-day quarantine,” Glosser said.



AHS is a fatal equine viral disease. The virus produces restlessness and colic, and terminates in a fatal pneumonia. Infected horses may exhibit soft swelling of the head above the eyes and the underside of the chest and abdomen, and lameness. AHS also can cause pregnant mares to abort.

This interim rule was effective upon signature and published in the March 6 Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before May 7. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket no. 89-218 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 866, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm 1141-S., 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Douglas L. Hendrix (301) 436-7255

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## **USDA PLANS CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATING PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, March 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service will alter its estimating program in response to data users' requests.

NASS administrator Charles Caudill noted the following adjustments in reporting activities.

—A new acreage report will be issued June 28. It will include planted acres and area to be harvested for most field crops. This information was previously carried in the July Crop Production report.

—The Grain Stocks report, effective March 30, will have estimates for oats and grain sorghum stocks in each quarterly issue. Other changes in this report include: On-farm wheat estimates for Georgia will be combined with other states and not appear separately; estimates for Arkansas and North Carolina now will be reported by state. On-farm sorghum estimates for Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee will be carried only in a total with other states, as will the barley estimate for Arizona. The on-farm soybean estimate for Alabama will be combined with other states, while the North Dakota estimate now will be reported separately.

—The Prospective Plantings report on March 30 will show oats acreage expected to be harvested for grain.

Caudill said that based on review of information released from the 1987 Census of Agriculture, NASS will begin estimating crops in states where production has increased significantly, and discontinue where it has declined.

—Additions include summer potatoes in Missouri, and dry edible beans in Oregon, Texas, and Wisconsin.

—Deletions include:

Sorghum—Arizona, California

Rye—Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Oregon

Oats—Kentucky, New Jersey, Virginia

Barley—New Mexico

Potatoes—(fall) Connecticut, (spring) Louisiana,  
(summer) Tennessee

Sweet potatoes—Tennessee

Pomegranates—California

Peaches—Mississippi

Lettuce—Ohio, Wisconsin

Alfalfa hay—Louisiana (to be included in “other hay”)

Fresh market tomatoes—Louisiana

In addition, NASS will limit or expand certain forecasting activities for its monthly Crop Production report based on new Census data. A limited program means the initial forecast will be carried forward monthly until the Crop Production Annual Summary. A full program means the estimates will be updated monthly during the season.

—The program will be limited for:

Sorghum—Tennessee

Oats—Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Maryland, South Carolina,  
Utah, West Virginia

Barley—Arizona

Winter Wheat—Virginia

Spring wheat—Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Hay—Maryland

—A full estimating program will be added for:

Barley—Wisconsin

Soybeans—North Dakota, Wisconsin

Peanuts—New Mexico

Hay—Florida



Crops dropped from the estimating program also will be deleted from price estimates. Generally, limited-forecast states estimate marketing year average prices only. States that have added crops to the estimating program will prepare price data when the 1990 crop marketings start.

Additional information about these changes in the NASS program is available from Bill Dowdy at (202) 447-2127 weekdays 8:30-5:00 ET.

Kent Miller (202) 786-1494

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES**

WASHINGTON, March 13—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.41 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 8.46 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.35 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.70 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.81 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.29 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.10 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made March 20 at 3 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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## **SAUDI ARABIA ELIGIBLE FOR MORE BARLEY UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, March 13—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 500,000 metric tons of U.S. barley to Saudi Arabia under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Today's 500,000 metric ton allocation, added to the 2,500 metric tons remaining under previous allocations, brings the amount of barley currently available to Saudi Arabia under the EEP to 502,500 metric tons.

Sales of U.S. barley will be made to buyers in Saudi Arabia at competitive world prices. The export sales will be made through normal commercial channels with the assistance of commodities from the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Saudi market.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call William Hawkins, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES 1990-CROP WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS AND RYE LOAN AND PURCHASE RATES**

WASHINGTON, March 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced county loan and purchase rates for the 1990 crops of wheat, barley, oats and rye.

The 1990-crop county price support rates were determined in accordance with the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, and reflect changes in the national average price support rates. Some county rates were adjusted to reflect location and transportation costs and other factors. These adjustments were limited to a two percent change in

addition to the change in the national average price support rate from the 1989 crop.

Copies of the wheat, barley, oats and rye county rate schedules are available from the Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, USDA/ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013; telephone: (202) 447-8701.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN ANIMAL IMPORT QUARANTINE PROCEDURES**

WASHINGTON, March 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that application procedures for users of the Harry S. Truman Animal Import Center will be changed to streamline space allocation in that import quarantine facility effective March 26.

“We have established priorities for facility users to expedite the importation of animals of potential value to the general public,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which operates the center.

Under the new regulations, the center will select import applications through a lottery process. “We believe, based on our experience with the application process, that a lottery is the most equitable means of allotting space for importations of animals that require strict quarantine,” said Glosser. “The lottery will take into account the types of animals to be imported and the disease status of the countries of origin from which the animals are to come.”

The Truman Center is the only quarantine facility in the United States authorized to import animals from countries that have certain exotic diseases, including rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever.

Previously, import applications were accepted on a “first-come-firstserved” basis. However, because many applicants did not have the interest or financial means to follow through on the importations, legitimate importers were prevented from using the center.

The amended regulations stipulate that importations by U.S. government agencies will be limited to one per year and are granted priority only if they are of potential value to the general public.



The amended regulations also require that animals imported through the center first be quarantined in an embarkation quarantine facility, approved by APHIS, in the country of export. These export facilities will be evaluated on a site-specific basis to ensure that they are free of exotic diseases.

The first lottery will be held April 30. The next lottery will be October 1990.

The revised regulations were published as a final rule in the Feb. 23 Federal Register.

Douglas L. Hendrix (301) 436-7255

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## BEETLES NEW HOPE AGAINST PURPLE WEED MENACE

WASHINGTON, March 14—As beautiful as it looks in gardens, purple loosestrife leads a double life. It is invading wetlands in northern states, crowding out plants that wildlife and livestock eat.

A spikey plant, purple loosestrife has been planted as an ornamental that bears reddish-purple flowers from late June to early September. But, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist reports it has become classified as a weed that now has invaded over 400,000 acres in 25 states in the northern third of the country. It also grows in Canada.

Costs of control and lost forage total about \$45 million a year, said entomologist Stephen Hight with USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Cutting, mowing, and burning or applying herbicide have not stopped the weed from taking hold in wetlands as well as marshes, wildlife refuges, irrigation and roadside ditches, and wild and cultivated rice fields.

Hight and colleagues in Switzerland and West Germany are trying a different strategy to help cut these losses. They are counting on the weed's natural enemies in Europe. The research team intends to bring to the United States three European beetles that attack the weed's roots and leaves.

"Wherever you find purple loosestrife in Europe, you'll find these insects," said Hight. "Even though 60 U.S. species of insects feed on the weed, none of them do enough damage. So there will be little competition for the European imports. Since nothing in the United States attacks the weed's roots, there is an open niche here for the European root-feeding weevil." But before setting insects loose, Hight sent



loosestrife and other American plants for tests in the beetles' home turf. His Swiss and West German colleagues are seeing if only the weed, among the test plants, is eaten by beetles collected in 1986 in West Germany, Denmark and Finland. "

It's easier and safer to ship plants to the insects' native habitat than to send the insects here," said Hight, at the Beneficial Insects Laboratory in Beltsville, Md. Purple loosestrife probably came from Europe in boat ballast that was dumped on the East coast in the early 1800's.

His European colleagues are testing 50 species of plants, including 18 related to the weed, seven major agricultural crops such as rice and sorghum, and three native species of loosestrife (*Lythrum*). So far, their results have confirmed earlier studies that indicated the three beetles attack only purple loosestrife.

"If all goes well," Hight said, "we hope to release the beetles in the field during the summer of 1990 or 1991." A generation of insects first has to be reared under quarantine to make sure they have no parasites or diseases.

Hight has chosen 15 sites in seven states for study and eventual release of the European beetles. The sites will be monitored before, during and after release, periodically checking to see if the insects have become established.

One insect, the weevil *Hylobius transversovittatus*, feeds on the weed's roots. The larvae mine the woody root, burrowing into it, Hight said. The other, the leaf beetle *Galerucella*, feed on leaves and flowers. The 1/4 inch-long adults, nearly the size of the weeds' flowers, make holes in the leaves. When the larvae have done their damage, the leaf looks like it's been etched and its top layer has been removed.

Hight stressed the beetles would be imported only if proven to have an appetite strictly for the purple loosestrife growing in places such as wetlands and wildlife refuges.

He said the weed, which can grow into a 6-to-8-foot tall woody plant, lowers the quality of wetland pasture and wild hay meadows since livestock find it less palatable than the grasses and sedges it displaces.

Dvora A. Konstant (301) 344-3108

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## USDA PROTECTS ELEVEN NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, March 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 11 new varieties of seedreproduced plants, including bean, tall fescue, tomato and wheat.

Kenneth H. Evans, of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import, and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform, and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

- the Eureka and Sentry varieties of bean, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;

- the Trident and Pacer varieties of tall fescue, developed by International Seeds Inc., Halsey, Ore.;

- the Titan variety of tall fescue, developed by Seed Research of Oregon Inc., Corvallis, Ore.;

- the Diablo variety of tomato, developed by the Harris Moran Seed Co., Salinas, Calif.;

- the Coker 9766 variety of wheat, developed by the Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn.;

- the 7805, 7833, 7837, and 7846 varieties of wheat, developed by HybriTech Seed International Inc., Wichita, Kans.

The certificates of protection for the 7805, 7833, 7837, and 7846 wheat varieties are being issued to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

The plant variety protection program is administered by AMS and provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seedreproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

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**THIS WEEK'S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS  
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, March 15—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

**Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop Table**

White .....	40.0
Extra-light Amber .....	37.0
Light Amber .....	36.0
Amber .....	35.0
Nontable .....	33.0

The levels are unchanged from those announced April 20, 1989. Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their 1989 honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST  
John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

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